

THE
Famous and Remarkable
HISTORY
of
SIR Richard Whittington,

Three Times **LORD MAYOR** of **LONDON:**
who lived in the time of King *Henry the Fifth*, in the Year 1413, with
all the Remarkable Passages, and things of Note which hap-
pened in his time: With his Life and Death.

Written by **T. H.**



The Printer to the Reader,

Courteous Reader, I here present unto thee no strange
 or Foreign News, no imagination, or vain conceit
 of Poetical fiction; neither do I tell thee of Galla
 pantus, or of the Red-Rose-Knight, nor such like Sto
 ries; but I here offer to thy view, a true pattern of
 Humility; being the Glory of our Kingdom, and
 raised to Honour by desert; The Title tells you that it is the Life
 and Death of Richard Third, who for his Clemency and Under
 standing, was three times chosen Lord Mayor of the Honourable
 City of London; who always acknowledged his beginning to be of mean
 and low rank; yet he was beloved of the King for his Fidelity & trust
 as may appear in larger Tomes, and the Entertainments that he gave
 at his own house to his Sovereign, at several times: his bounty upon
 all occasions, when the King wanted his Purse; his love to the City
 and Commons, which are not to be buried in Oblivion, but rather
 to be proclaimed as living monuments to all people of what condi
 tion soever, to ensure them never to be dejected, though never so
 poor, as the Story will more at large declare: all which, happened
 in the days of our late Fathers, and indeed, very probable it may
 be for us to believe: If we will not give credit to former Historians
 who will give the like to us in future Ages: Read it through, and
 you shall find something worthy of note, and thou shalt do thy self
 some pleasure, and me a high favour.

Fate.

The Life and Death of Sir Richard Whittington, who was Three times Lord Mayor of the City of London.

The saying is not so old as true. He that refused to buy God's
 (el Cheap, shall buy Repentance Dear; neither can a penitent
 a man in his misery, but rather betwixt by him himselfe the
 like misfortune; If thou intend to do any good, deliver first all thy worst
 day, for thou knowest not what may happen what might to prevent ther:
 Behold the salt in a Looking Glass, it thou approach too nigh, it will
 things as may become thy beauty; but if thou stande faine at distance, let
 the actions of thy life make good that splendor which thy face sheweth. And
 not the millions every man, make the selfe his best as woman; he friend to
 let a man, be courteous to all men; let the silent be the friend, the silent
 the companion, the Tongue the servant. Let Silence be the rule, let Silence
 the Labor, Honoure the Fame, and shewen the following: Let Silence be
 the good documents thy life to follow, and I am now to give thee the
 a worthy President to follow. After his beginning, he gave out the
 the pillage of his life, and thou wilt, no question, see what he had, and
 that made all things of nothing, can of a little make much, and multiply
 a little unto a Baggage, as will easily appear by the succeeding History.

Thus Richard Whittington was so oft called upon that he could scarcely
 give account of his Parents by himselfe; and being almost choked in the
 Country, he himselfe compelled him up to London, hoping to find more quiet
 life in the London than Country: So long he was engaged, as had been
 obbey: two days he spent in gazing upon the shops and gazing upon the
 buildings; feeding his eyes, but starving his stomach. At length more
 fatness compelled him to rest himself upon a Bench before a Merchant's
 Gate, where he not long tar, but the owner of the house taking notice
 of his state into the Town, finding him a poor simple fellow, and thinking
 that he had no more wit than him then appeared well how he was used of him
 to be lodged there, and being able to work for his living, and not to
 himselfe, once some lawful Calling, threatening him at the last with the
 stocks and whipping post: but the poor man after the making of some
 plain laws and covenants, desired him to pardon him; and told him that

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he was a desperate man, who desired any employment. And that no pains
how mean or coarse soever, could seem tedious or burthensome unto him,
so he might but find some good Master, by whose charity he might relieve
his present necessity: For his great ambition was, but to keep his body
from nakedness, and his stomach from hunger; and told him what, how
long it was since he had tasted meat or drink. 357

The worthy Merchant seeing him of a personable body, and an ingenu-
ous aspect, howsoever both were clouded under a rustick habit, began some-
what to commiserate his estate, and knocking for a Seruant, had him take
for that fellow, and gave him such particulars of the house for the present accom-
odation; and at his return he would have further conference with him. The
Seruant did as he was commanded, and took him in.

The Merchant went then to the Exchange, which was then in Lumber-
street, about his affairs: in which interim poor Whittington was had in-
to the Bishop's house himself, for famine by reason of hunger and
cold, (for it was then in the winter time) had quite rub'd him of his co-
lour: And there he lay before him in plenty, and being led to the Country,
in the poorest gear. He fed like a Farmer, and having fastened himself
sufficiently and worn him to the full, a fresh colour began to come into
his Cheek: At which the Merchants Daughter (hearing of a new
strange Bird) came into the Bishop, and began to question him of others
things concerning the Country: to all which he gave her such modest and
subtle answers, that he took a great liking unto him, and so left him.

Winter now came, and Master Fitzwarren (so was the Merchant
called) came home with a good stomach, and brought a friend or two with
him from the Exchange, whom he set to meat, and had speech of ma-
ny things at the table, more while the Seruants were set also at dinner
who would needs have Whittington, though he had a little broke his
day, to keep them company: Some of them desiring him in his Country
to buy others providing his supposed simplicity.

Now to come to the purpose, the Table being withdrawn in the Par-
lour; and the Ducks departed, and Master Fitzwarren and his Daughter
left alone; the being of a good and gentle disposition, began to commend
the Merchant concerning the poor man whom he called the Ser-
uant; to whom he answered, Gods mercy Daughter thou hast done well
to remember me: such a one I sent indeed, but have my Seruants done
as I commanded them? and where is he now? wh answered then, that
she had forgotten he should stay dinner, and not depart the house till he
himself had further spoken with him. At which they both went into the
Hall, and called the fellows before them; who appeared unto them with
such

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With a bashful humbling, that he seemed to them both to beg a Charity; whose language fell betwixt them concerning him, which gave them content: at length they did him receive himself.

When the Father and the Daughter had some private conference concerning him, he urged him to entertain him in his house, and that there would be some employment for him, either to run or go of Errands, or else to do some drudgery in the Kitchen, as making of fires, scouring Kettles, turning the Spits, and the like: To whom the Father replied, that indeed his work might be worth his meat, but he had no lodging to spare: the again answered, that he would be content in the house that were put to no use at all, and in one of them he might conveniently be lodged, and put the house to no trouble at all.

Well, at length he was admitted, and made a Member of the Family; in which he demeaned himself so well by his willingness, to run, or go, or to do any service, how tedious soever, that he had got the good will of all the whole household, only the Mother notwithstanding a cruel mean, and knowing him to be an under servant to her, continued to use him, and used him very cruelly and roughly, of which he would never complain, though he had cause enough. The Career in which he lay, he himself had been long unacquainted, was troubled with many and great Infirmities, that he could not sleep in the night, nor eat, nor drink, nor face, and much disturbed him in his rest: so present he lay, having got a gentle fever, by going of an Errand, or for making clean shoes of his own, or for some other work that he bought a young Cox, which he kept in his Career, and who for ever he had from the rebellion of the French Table, he would be sure to refer the part for her, because he had known by experience, that she had rid him of the former incurable sickness.

The story tells us, that this Merchant, Master Hugh Fitzwarren, was so generous, that he never adventured any Ship to Sea but he would have his Daughter his Captain, and every one of his Servants, what so whatsoever, to put in some thing, and to adventure with him, and according to that proportion which they would share, everyone received his share of the gain. Of this Story, Sir Richard was the origin, who followed him, and the Servants followed him, and their wages every one according to their abilities. And when they all had done, Whittington was remembered and raised for, and his Father telling him the custom of his house, he told him what he had to be paid in this adventure: who replied again, he was a poor man and had nothing that he would taking the chance upon his back, but for money he had none at all. When his Daughter drew

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but for pure and told her father, that for his servant Whittington, he would lay down whatsoever he would desire: who answered again, that what she had spoke was nothing to the purpose: for whatsoever was ventured in that kind, must be out of ones pocket soon and Charitable: and again she ended of him if he had any thing to spare for his own, to give to his father, and charged him deeply concerning that point, who making some unnecessary Legue, told him, that he had nothing which he could call his, saving a Cat, which he had bought with his pen-



ny, which he could not spare, because he had done him so many good services, and told them every of his assistance before related: which when the merchant heard, he told his father he would venture that commodity, and would give him as much as he would desire for it. (for she said which was called the Unicorn was fallen down as low as Blackwall, and all there that was at trade had aboard. Whittington, although unwilling to part from his good companion, yet being forced by his fathers command, he whom he had his substance he brought her, and (not without tears) delivered her to his father, who was verily glad of her, by reason they were troubled with mice and rats in the house, which not only spoiled their victuals, but damaged their wares and Commodities.

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Must leave the Cat upon her Clowes at Sea and honest Whittington
 at Land, who by that cruel Ocean the Merchant said, was to learn a
 shule, that he was as weary of his life, as of his teacher: for the (surp-
 ring upon his plainness and modesty) would be quarrelling with him, up-
 on every small or no occasion at all: some times beating him with the
 Whom, sometimes laying him down the shoulders with the Rable, the
 Spirit of what came next to her hands, being of so bad a disposition,
 that she still continued her cruelty towards him, and therefore he telteth
 with himself to run away: and for that purpose, he tooke bundled up those
 few Clowes which he had, and before day broke, was got as far as Bur-
 hill, and there he sat down to consider with himself what course he wold
 take to take it by the by chance. (It being All-hallows day) a merry p all



from Bow-Church began to Ring, and as he apprehended they were tuned
 to this Dittie: Turn again Whittington Lord Mayor of London.

Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London.

This took such a great impression in him, that almost how early it
 was, and that he might yet come back to his Masters house before any of
 the family were stirring, he resolved to go back, and found every thing
 according to his own wishes and desires; inasmuch that when the Doore

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bold were up none could tell what he had been making: And thus he continued as before in his first plainness and honesty, well beloved of all for the Kitchin officer: I come now to tell you what became of his adventure.

It is reported, that this good Ship the Unicorn, was by contrary winds and bad weather driven upon the shore, and a Barbary vessel coming by Englishman, (or rather an Ethiopian) who was a Moor's deliver, where they showed their Comings, and asked them to be landed. The Moors came down in multitudes, and they taken with the beauty of their Ship, for they had never seen any of that bigness, as before before. But when they had taken a full view of their Commodities, as Spices, Pearls and Looking Glasses, Jewels, and especially their Cloth and Ruffs of several sizes and colours, they brought them Gold in abundance, for it was more plentiful with them than Lead or Copper with us.

Presently the news was carried to the King, who sent some of his chief Nobles to bring him some sorts of goods, Commodities that was aboard, which when he saw they pleased him, he gave the Master and Merchants money to their: He at last bargained with them for their whole loading, and would he suffer them to depart, till he had pleased them himself.

Now the fashion of the Moors is not to sit at the Table as the custom is among us, but to have a rich Carpet spread upon the ground, and when the Feast or Banquet is ready, as well the King himself as the rest sit round about the Carpet, as the Turks commonly use to do upon their Shop-boards, and in that manner our English are set at the King's Banquet: but the meat was no sooner served in, but swarms of Rats and Mice hid upon the Dishes, and snatched away the meat even from the King and Queens Table: At which the King being amazed, asked one of the Nobles (by an Interpreter) if they described those Uermine for their sport, or if they were noxious and troublesome unto them: who answered him again, that they were the greatest bane unto them that could be possible, and by reason of their multitudes, they could not be destroyed; but the King would willingly give half the Revenue of his Crown if he could but only clear the Court of them. To not only his Table, but his very Bed-chamber swarmed with them, insomuch that he durst not lay him down to rest without a watch about him, to keep them from all his Pillow: To whom the Factor replied, that they had a strange beast aboard which he made no doubt would rid them of those Uermine: Which being told the King, he rose from his place, and embracing the Factor, told him, if he could show him such a creature, he would reward him with Silver and

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and Iode her lasty Child and Deaf. Who apprehending the occasion made
 her copy of the business, telling him it was a creature of great value, and
 not common. Besides they could not spare her from the Ship, in regard
 wh'n they were asleep, yet she was still waking in the night, not only to
 make her selfe sweete handie, but their eyes from the like sleep. The more
 contrary that he made of the matter, the more ravished was the King for this
 Deaf; insomuch that he was presently sent for.

And a second feast being prepared, and the Raes and Vice appearing
 as they did before, the young Merchant having the Deaf under his Cloak
 the King desired to see the thing which he had before so much commended:
 when presently he discovered her, and cast her among them, the two sooner
 sawe their Electrice, but fell upon their knees, and lay one
 panning, there another quite dead; they left them till she had frighted and
 dispersed the whole number; but such as she seized, their catallies lay there
 as witnesses of their unrepented sinnes.



Then pleasure took the King and the Nobility in the sport, bowling
 that the bowling of the Ball (of which there was plenty in that Country)
 was not unprofitable. In the interim one began to make her for
 her colour, whether continuing her for her colour, one said she had the
 countenance of a young man, and there she gave his sentence.

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For finding no more work for her to do, went round to the King and Queen, purling and curling, (as their manner is) which they apprehended to be, as if she inquired of them what she had deserved for that late service.

For out of Circumstances, no price could part them; and the rather when the Factors had told the King that she was his Sister-in-law, and that her blood would in some few years, being carefully lookt unto, furnish the whole Kingdom: so that Whittington's Corn adventure only surmounted all the Ships Trading hither: with double Fortune and unexpected gain, we bring them safe into England: the Ship being at Antioch near Blackwall, and the Pilot and Captain, with some other Officers in the Ship, at Mr. Fitzwarren's house, which was by London-Hall, to give account of their voyage. But these Caravans of Treasures and Pearls, with other unvaluable Riches which were given for the King, they caused to be brought along, not daring, by reason of their incalculable value, to trust them in the Ship. The Bills of Lading, and the benefit of the return of the Commodities being blessed and increased of by the Queen, he praised God for so prosperous a Voyage, and called all his servants, and gave order, that according to their adventures, every one should receive his portion.

At length finding his eye upon whole rich Caravans of Cabinets, he ask'd to whole store they belonged: who told him they were the King's, and told him to his poor Whittington, that he was very particular as to be so discouraged: To whom Master Fitzwarren said, if they then be his, God so bid I should keep them from him the least, for that is his right, and presently commanded Whittington to be sent for by the name of Mr. Whittington.

The servants not knowing any thing of the business, went unto him into the Kitchen, where he was then rubbing the Spine, leaning against the Rutler, and making them the Spicers, and told him he must come to his Master presently into the Palace: He poor Man started a little, that his shoes were dirty, and the room was rubb'd, and if he should but touch any thing there, he should spoil and disface those things in the room: But still the Master of the House called for Master Whittington, sending one Servant after another, till he was brought before him: and having scraped some few legs, and wash'd his Master took him by the hand, and called for a Chair for Master Whittington: His Daughter, the Sister, and the Factors every one of them saluted him by the name of Mr. Whittington, and forced him to sit down: He wondering what this should mean, desired them not to mock a poor simple man who meant none any better, at and were the more suspecting from his eyes, desiring them not to do him his power, for his ambition was never to come so high, as from the Kitchen to the Hall, much more from the Hall to the Palace. Then

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Then came his Master to him seriously, and said, I know Sir. Whittington, we are all in very good case, for you are at this time a better Man than my self in Estate; and then shewed him all those Cabinets and Chesters, and how richly they were lined. When he perceived by all their earnest assertions that all was true, he first fell down upon his knees and gave God most hearty thanks, who out of his great bounty would vouchsafe to cast an eye upon so poor and wretched a creature as himself: Then turning to his Master, he presented all his Kitchin before him, and told him, that all he had was at his disposing and service. He answered him again, that for his own part, God had lent him sufficient of his own, neither would he take from him the value of one Barbary Docker. He came next, and with a low Leg saluted his Mistress, and told her, that when she pleased to make choice of a Husband, he would make her the richest Marriage in London, because she was so willing, out of her own purse (when he was altogether penniless) to lay out for his adventure. To the Pilot and Master, and every Officer and common Sailor, he gave liberal according to their degree, even to the Cooks boy, and then to every servant of the house; nay, to the very Kitchen wench, who was so churlish unto him: and had so often belied him instead of her Master's meat, having caused her to be called unto him, he gave her an hundred pound towards her Marriage.

This being done, Captains were sent for, Merchants and the like, to put him into Cloaths and Linen of the best, who were to accommodate him with all they could: and his Lodging in the Barber was changed into the best Chamber of the house. And when the Barber had been with him and the rest, to make him comfortable in his Habit, there was a strange and sudden Metamorphosis: for out of a simple and bare Kitchen-Boys, there appeared a proper and well-dressed Man, and a graceful Gentleman: insomuch that his young Mistress began to cast a more amorous eye upon him than before, which not a little pleased Master Fitzwarren her Father, who intended a match between them.

The issue of this great adventure was presently noted through the whole City, insomuch that his Master intertreated his late friends to walk with him into the Exchange to see the fashion of the Merchants, which he did: to see all of them come about him and saluted him; some bid God give him joy of his fortune, others desired of him better and further acquaintance, and every one as his liberal fancy led him: Some commended him for his piety, others for his modest and wary and discreet carriage. Indeed, Wealth is able to make all these good where they are most wanting, which was not in him as appears by the sequel.

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Whit-
ington and Alice, and willingly entertained by both parties, and
not without great cost, with the invitation of the Lord Mayor, and the
Aldermen, very nobly celebrated; and the By-egroom by this means be-
got acquaintance with the bed.



After this his Father-in-Law demanded of his Son what he purposed
to take in hand; (his Freedom being offered him.) Who made an-
swer again, That since God had so bless him in his small adventure, he
would not leave it off so, but make his goodness in a greater, and that his
purpose was to turn Merchant; which reply gave him no small content in
regard he knew the best amongst them would be glad to have the society of
so hopeful a Citizen; which he continued, adventuring in several sortons
with his Father, and had very happy and prosperous returns.

The time being come when he was pitcht for Merchant, he modestly refused
it, as unable to take so great a charge, and would willingly have paid
his fine, which his Father-in-Law would not suffer: at whose perswasions
he took the place upon him, in which he so well behaved himself in the man-
agement of all affairs belonging to his Office, that he not only left it with-
out the least Taxation, but with a general love and approbation, in so much
that the universal eye of the whole City was fixt upon him, in an hopeful
expectation.

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expectation to be a profitable member of that united body being a further
ly: prove. And this happened in the year of our Lord 1493. Sir John Hod-
ley Grocer being Mayor, and Drewerie Basingh his fellow Sheriff, of
the town of which, Mr. Fabian in his Chronicle, and Mr. John Stow in
his Survey of London, can fully satisfy you.

In the year 1497. and the one and twentieth of the same Kings reign;
Sir Richard Whittington was Lord Mayor of London, John Woodcote
and William Ascam being Sheriffs, and he held the place with great re-
putation and honour. In which time of his Mayoralty there was much
discontent in the Kingdom, by reason of many differences between the King
and the Commons; the circumstances whereof were here so long re-
late; only one thing is worthy of observation; that whether by his admi-
nistrations or no, may be questioned, bringing in yearly such store of Gold,
Silks, Battsins, Velvets, Damasks, Wines and Armes, &c. into the
Kingdom, might be the cause of that great pride and stirring in apparel
which was used in those days. But as Harding, Fabian, and others have
left to memory, in that year of his Mayoralty, and after, there resorted to
the Kings Court at their pleasures daily, at the least ten thousand persons.
In his Kitchen were three hundred Cooks, and in every office according
to that rate. Whether, of Ladies, Chamber-maids, and Laundry-maids,
above three hundred, and they all excelled in gorgeous and costly apparel
far above their degrees; in whom the women and Grooms were clothed
in Silks and Velvets, Damasks and the like; with Ambassadors, rich
Furs and Goldsmiths work, dwelling very strange and new fashions.

And in this year also, about the feast of St. Bartholomew, grew a great
discord between the Duke of Hereford and Mowbery Duke of Norfolk;
the beginning thereof being as followeth: The two Dukes rising from
the Parliament towards their Lodgings, the Duke of Norfolk (saying to the
other, Sir you see how variable the King is in his words, and relying
upon what he hath said how without mercy he pursueth his Nobles and Coun-
trolls to death, imprisoning some, and exiling others: Therefore it be-
cometh us not too much to trust to his word and smooth language, for doubt-
less in time he will bring them to us the like death and banishment.) Of
which words he accuseth him to the King, which the other denying, it was
to be tried by combat: the Juries were appointed, and the day of meeting
the eleventh day of September, to which place, and on the day assigned
came both the Dukes, and habely armed, appeared before the King
ready to enter in a Battel; where the King threw down his Gladius,
and saying the Combat, banished the Duke of Hereford for ten years,
but the Duke of Norfolk for ever, who travelling many Countries, at
the last came to Venice, and there ended his life.

Again,

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Again, in the year 1406. and in the eighth of Henry the fourth; Sir Richard Whittington was the second time Lord Mayor, Nicholas Worto and Geoffrey Brook being Sheriffs. Again, in the year 1409. being the seventh year of Henry the fifth; he supplied the Mayorship, Robert Whittington (his near Kinsman) and John Butler being Sheriffs: and which is more remarkable of him then of any other that ever succeeded him in that place of Honour; he was once Sheriff, and three times Lord Mayor of this famous and honourable City in three several Kings Reigns. Now to cut off all circumstances, and come close to the matter, we may easily find what this Man was; by the Pious and Religious acts done in his life to the Cities present grace, use and benefit, and to his own benefit and merits for ever.

In the Vintry-Ward he built a Church and dedicated it to St. Michael, calling it Peter-Nolter in the Royal, and added to it a College, founded to St. Mary; and placed therein a President and four Fellows, which ought to be Masters of Arts; besides other yearly allowances to Clerks and young Scholars: near which he erected an Hospital which he called God's House, for thirteen poor men & their attending; & the devout superstition of those days, were to pray for the Soule of his Father-in-Law Hugh Fitzwarren, & Dame Molde his wife, for whom he created a safe Tomb in the Church he before built, leaving also a place for himself, and Dame Alice his Lady, when it should please God to call them: In which place they were afterwards both of them, according to their desire, very honourably Interred, great mourning & much lamentation being made for him by the Citizens of the City, in regard he was a man so remarkable for his charity. He built another House of Aunty, which he called after his own name, Whittington College, with a perpetual allowance for Scholastic's Stipends to be paid there for ever; leaving good Land for the maintenance thereof.

And in the west end of the City, he built that famous Gate and Prison, so this day called Newgate; and thereupon caused the Merchants Arms to be graven in Stone. He added to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in Smithfield, and was at the charge of repairing thereof.

Further, at the Gray-Friars in London he erected a Library, as a testimony of the great love he was to Learning; which he began in the year of our Lord 1421. and finished it in the year following. Moreover, that place which is called the Schoolers this day, between Cheapside and Cornhill, a good town of St. Dunstons, which served for a fish-market, and a fish-market, greatly beneficial to the City.

Besides, he enlarged Guild Hall, and gleazed most of all of the Wall. And at his own costs and charges, repairing the Hall, and contributing largely

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largely to the Library, adding to those places a Conduite; which yielded
 some of sweet and wholesome Water, to the general good and benefit of
 the City.



In the year 1497, when Sir Richard Whittington was Lord Mayor, that Rebel Sir John Oldcastle was taken in the Tower by Sir John Powell, not without danger and hurt of him that took him. At which time all the Estates of the Realm were assembled in Parliament at London, therein to protest the King's authority, and other sort of money and ammunition, who took great pains beyond the seas in France; that Lord and others, when they heard that the public enemy was taken, they agreed all not to dissolve the Parliament, until he were delivered, and then to answer in the same. After which the Lord Powell was sent to, to fetch him up with honor and great cost, with many men to London in a Lyon, wounded very much, having received many wounds; and also a Clerk which he called his Secretary, with him, that was of his counsel in all his secrets. As soon as Sir John Oldcastle was brought into the Parliament, before the Earl of Bedford, to whom was left Regent, and Governor of the Realm in the time of the King's absence, being in France and other parts and states, his Indictment being read before him, of his forcible infection against the

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He built another great structure, which he called after his own name, Whittington College, with a perpetual allowance for维持 Lectures to be read there for ever; and on good Land for the maintenance thereof. And on the west side of the City, he built that famous Gate and Prison, to this day called Newgate; and thereupon caused the Brittaines Arms to be graven in Bricks. He added to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in Smith-field, and was at the charge of repairing thereof.

Further, at the Gray-Friers in London he created a Library, as a testimony of the great love he had to Learning; which he began in the year of our Lord 1421. and finished it in the year following. Moreover, that place which is called the Schoolers this day, between Cheapside and Cornhill, a good house of Stone, which served for a Fish-market, and a Fish-monger, greatly beneficial to the City.

Besides, he enlarged Guild-Hall, and glozed most of all of the Wall. And at his own costs and charges, paving the Hall, and contributing largely

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largely to the Library, adding to those places a Conduit, which yielded
 fount of sweet and wholesome Water, to the general good and benefit of
 the City.



In the year 1497, when Sir Richard Whittington was now almost 80
 years, that Rebel Sir John Oldcastle was taken in the Tower by the
 Lord Powells, not without danger and loss of time that cost him his
 life. At this time all the Barons of the Realm were assembled in Parliament at
 London, therein to provide the King's own safety, and other acts of im-
 portance and amission, who took great pains beyond the Seas in France;
 where Louis and others, when they heard that the public enemy was tak-
 en, they agreed all not to dissolve the Parliament, until he were
 hanged, and beheaded and buried in the same. When upon the Lord Powells
 was sent 1497, to fetch him up with power and great art, who brought him
 to London in a Myer, wounded very much, having received many
 wounds; and also a Clerk wholy he called his Secretary, with him, that
 was of his counsel in all his actions. As soon as the aforesaid Sir John
 Oldcastle was brought into the Parliament house, the Earl of Bedford
 who then was left Regent, and Governour of the Realm in the time of
 the King's absence, being in France and other Kingdoms and States, the
 Indictments being read before him, of his forcible infection of the King:

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King and State in Dr. Gyles's Fields, and other treasons and outrages by him committed; the question was asked, how he could excuse himself, and shew why he should not be judged to dye according to the Law: But he seeking a breath and respite at the matters of God, and that all mortal men that would be followers of God, ought to prefer mercy above judgement, and that vengeance pertained only to the Lord, and ought not to be practised by them that worship, but to be left to God alone; with many other words to protract the time, until the Lord Chief Justice admonished the Regent, not to suffer him to spend the time so vainly, in molesting the Nobles of the Realm: whereupon the Duke of Bedford, Regent, commanded him to answer formally and punctually to the matter laid to his charge.

Then said Sir John, being thus urged, at last, after deliberation taken, he said, It is the least thing that I account of, to be judged by you as a man's judgement; and again he began to talk, but heeding to the purpose, until the Chief Justice remonstrated him again to answer finally, and to answer them as he could. He should not suffer death according to his desert: To which he stoutly answered, that he had no Judge amongst them, so long as his Reign Lord King Richard was alive, and in his Realm of Scotland: which answer when he had made, because there needed no further witness, he was there presently condemned to be hanged and hanged upon a Gallows, and there to be burnt hanging upon the same: which judgement was executed upon him the thirtieth day of December, in Dr. Gyles's Fields, where many honourable persons were present, and the last words that he spoke, were to Sir Thomas Upingham, advising him, that if he saw him off from death to life again the third day, he might procure that his soul which he had raised, might be in peace and rest. He was hanged by the neck in a Chain of Iron, and afterwards consumed by fire.

December it is recorded, that in the time of this war by Peter, Sir Richard Whittington, the glorious City of Constantinople was taken by Mahomet the second Prince of the Turks, whose soldiers sacked it with much cruelty, and committed no manner of violence to the women, bringing away women in sucking babes. This Sir Richard Whittington had trafficked from thence by his factors which there abode, and were then taken prisoners; so that he lay near upon fifteen thousand pounds: which when he heard of, never was so much as a token, or disguised, but said, God will send more: and God was the instant provider of the Turkish victory upon this Imperial City, as it exceeded the damage raised by the loss of other Cities. They also defeated at the same time, Constantine

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time, sticking his head upon a Maunce, and wofull verision caused it to be carried thowen the Turkish Camp.

In the space of a week after, there hapned a horrible Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, which burned almost eight hundred houses, and spoiled three thousand people at the sacking of the aforesaid City by the said Mahomet. The Turks found therein so much treasure, that they wondered that the Citizens would not spend it upon Souldiers for their own Defence, but so dotingly to spare the true spending thereof, to become an enticing prey for their unconscionable enemies: for indeed it was thought that if the State would have hired Souldiers, and given them good pay, they might have raised the Siege of the Turks: It is an old and a true saying, Covetousness is the Mother of ruine and mischief.

This strange thing hapned in the second time that he was elected Lord Mayor, and that was upon the twenty seventh of April, being Tuesday in Easter-Week: William Foxley, Port-maker for the Mint in the Tower of London, fell asleep, and so continued sleeping and snoing and could not be awakened with pitching, crawling, or otherwise burning, or whatsoever, till the first day of the Term, which was full 14 days and 15 nights: The cause of this his sleeping could not be known, though the same was diligently searched for by the King's command of his Physicians, and other learned men; yea, the King himself examined the said William Foxley, who was in all points found as his awaking to be as if he had slept but one night, and yet lived 41 years after. But in length of time did call to mind, how he did wish to God that he might sleep a Fortnight together, if it was not so and so; concerning a bargain betwene a neighbour of his and himself.

On Thursday in Whitsun-week following the Duke of Somerset with Anthony Rivers, and four others, kept Jests and Turnaments before the King and Queen, and other of the Nobility in the Tower of London, against thre Esquires of the Queens Bed chamber, which were performed before some of the French Nobility, that then were Prisoners to the King, which he took in France; to the great admiration of those strangers who never saw the like action before, being so earnestly performed. There was also Sir Richard Whittington and the two Sheriffs, and that night the King and Queen did sup with the Lord Mayor.

Those strangers which beheld those Jests, were prisoners in the Tower at that time; namely, the Duke of Orleans and Bourbon, brother to the Duke of Britain, the Earls of Vandosme, of Ewe, and Richmond, and the high Marshal of France, and many other Knights and Esquires, to the number of seven hundred; all which were at one time prisoners to

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the King, but nobly used and attended every one according to their rank and quality; who when they were Ransomed, made it known to their King; how honourably they were attended in England, and what respect the King and our English Nation shewed them being Prisoners, who might have taken their lives away, as well as their persons Prisoners.

The second thing that was remarkable in Sir Richard Whittingtons year, was, that the King kept his Christmas at Lambeth; and at the feast of Purification, seven Dolphins of the Sea came up to the River of Thames, and played there up and down, until four of them were kill'd.

On Saturday the Eve of St. Michael the Arch-Angel, the year following, in the morning before day, betwixt the hour of one and two of the Clock, began a terrible Earth-quake; with Lightning and Thunder, which continued the space of six hours, and that universally through the whole World; so that most men thought the World as then would have ended. The unreasonable Beasts roared, and flew to the Town with a hideous noise; also the Fowls of the Ay: cryed out; such was the work of God at that time, to call his people to Repentance.

The four and twentieth day of January following, a Battel of Combat, was fought in Smithfield within the Lists, before the King, between two men of Feverham in Kent, John Upton Partry, Appellant; and John Down, Gentleman, Defendant: John Upton accused John Down that he and his Complices should design the King's death on the day of his Coronation following. When they had fought somewhat long, and had received each of them some wounds, and still perishing in their violent action, and no hopes to find out the truth, the King took up the matter and forgave both parties.

On Candlemas-Eve following, in divers places of England was great weathering of wind, hail, snow, rain, with thunder and lightning; where by the Church of Baldock in Hertford-shire, and the Church and part of the Town of Walden in Essex, with other neighbouring Villages, were sore shaken, and the Steeple of St. Pauls in London, about two in the afternoon, was set on fire in the midst of the night; first on the West side, and then on the South; and divers people ripping the fire, came to quench it in the Steeple, which they did with Urinegar, so far as they could find; so that when the Lord Mayor with much people came to Pauls to have holpen if need had been, they returned again every man to his own home, trusting in God all had been well: but anon after, between eight and nine of the Clock, the fire burst out again afresh out of the Steeple, by reason of the wind, more hot and fervent then before, and did much hurt to the Wood and Timber thereof. Then the Lord Mayor and many people came thither

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thither again: and with vinegar quenched the fire which was so violent, but no man received any hurt.

Moreover, in Sir Richard Whittington's time lived one Richard Fleming, Bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1436, who founded Lincoln Colledge in Oxford, which was afterwards in Richard the Third's time, in the year of our Lord 1476, by Thomas Rotherham, Bishop of the same See, much augmented and enlarged with great revenues. Likewise Magdalen Colledge in Oxford was built; and also a great part of Eaton Colledge in Oxford was built by William Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester, who was a loving and constant friend to Sir Richard Whittington, and did much good in many parts of this Kingdom; and the said Sir Richard did largely contribute to these and the like pious uses by the interary of this Bishop.

In the year of our Lord 1419, in which Sir Richard Whittington was the third time inaugurated into the Mayoralty, as is before mentioned; King Henry the fifth, who having conquered the greatest part of France, and espoused Katherine sole Daughter to the King, and Wife to the Crown, taking leave of his Father-in-Law, embarked, with his Royal Wife, and Landed at Dover upon Candlemas-day, leaving in France for his Deputy his Brother, the Duke of Clarence; from thence arrived at London the fourteenth day of February, and the Queen came thither the one and twentieth day of the said month, being met upon Black-Heath by the Lord Mayor, and three hundred Aldermen, and prime Citizens, in Gold Chains, and rich costly Habits, with other sumptuous and brave devices, as Pageants, Speeches and Shows, to the great delight and content of both their Majesties.

The four and twentieth day of February following, being St. Mathews day, her Coronation was solemnized in S. Peters Church in Westminster, which being ended, she was afterwards Royally conveyed into the great Hall, and there under a rich Canopy of State sat to Dinner, upon whose right hand sat at the end of the Table, the Lord Arch-Bishop's Grace of Canterbury, and Henry called the rich Cardinal, Bishop of Winchester, upon the left hand of the Queen sat the King of Scots in a Chair of State, and was served with covered Dishes, as the Bishops were. But after them, and upon the same side next to the Boards end, were seated the Dukes of York, and Countess of Huntingdon: the Earl of March holding a Scepter in his hand, kneeling upon the right side, the Earl Marshal in the like manner knelt upon the left hand of the Queen: the Countess of Kent sat under the Table at the right foot, and the Countess Marshal at the left foot of her Majesty.

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Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, was that day Oberleer and stood before the Queen bare-headed: Sir Richard Newel was Carber, and the Earl of Suffolk's Butcher Cup-bearer: Sir John Stewart Sewer, the Lord Clifford (instead of the Earl of Warwick) Butler, the Lord Willoby (instead of the Earl of Arundel) White Butler, the Lord Gray Caterer, Paperer, the Lord Audley, (in the head of the Earl of Cambridge) Almoner: the Earl of Worcester was Lord high Marshal, who rode about the Hall on a great Courser, with many tis. slaves about him, to make room in the Hall. In the white Hall next after the Duke, the Barons of the Cinque-poyrs began the Table, upon the right hand towards St. Stevens Capel, and beneath them on the Table sat the Vouchers of the Chancery: and upon the left hand next to the Cinquepoyrs, sat Sir Richard Whittington, (now the third time Lord Mayor) and his brethren, the Aldermen of London. The rest of the Bishops began the Table over against the Baron of the Cinque-poyrs, and the Ladies and chief Noble Women the Table against the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen: At which two Tables of the Bishops, the Bishop of London, and the Bishop of Durham sat highest at the one, and the Countess of Stafford, and the Countess of March on the other. And for ordering of the service, others chief Lords were appointed Officers; as Steward, Controuler, Butler, and the like, which places were supplied by the Earls of Northumberland, Westmorland, the Lord Fitzur, the Lord Farneval, the Lord Gray of Wilton, the Lord Feres of Groby, the Lord Poynings, the Lord Harrington, the Lord Dunc, the Lord Duker, the Lord Delaware, &c.

I have shewed you onely the ordering of this Rich Feast, but the cost and sumptuousness of the fare, would ask too long and large a circumstance to discourse: what I have hitherto done, was onely to shew to the World that at these high Solemnities, Inaugurations, and Coronations, the Lord Mayor of the City of London, and the Aldermen have place, and their presence is still required: the City being the King's Chamber, and in an interregnum, he the first and prime Officer in the Kingdom. But I fear I have dwelt too long upon the premises; which I hope none will hold for an unnecessary deviation: I come now to discourse unto you of Sir Richard Whittington's invitation of the King & Queen into the city where he bountifully feasted them in his own house at his own proper charge.

How great and magnificent the Londoners Feasts be even amongst themselves, especially at that high and pompous Festival at Guild-Hall the day after Simon and Jude, at the solemn Inauguration of his Lordship who but knows: as also the ordinary Tables of the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, where there is free and generous entertainment for all men of

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fastion and quality; the like hath for plenty of dishes, and order of Service is nowhere to be, or found through Europe: If then their daily provision be so curious and costly, what may we think their variety and rarity was at the Inhabitation and entertainment of two such great Majesties? I must therefore leave it to the Readers imagination, being so far transcending my expression: Let it therefore give satisfaction to any one that shall doubt thereof, that it was performed to the everlasting reputation of the Inhabiter, the honour of the City, and great content of these Royal Personages invited: The bounty of the Table not to be questioned, I come now to the Fire that he made in the Presence Chamber, where the King and Queen then Dined, which was only of sweet and odouriferous Wood, far exceeding the smell of Juniper; for it was mixed with Mace, Cinnamon, and other rare and costly Spices, which did cast such a pleasant and delightful savour through the room, that it pleased his Majesty to call him unto him, and say, my good Lord Mayor, though your fare be choice, costly and abundant, yet above all things I have observed in your noble entertainment, this Fire, which you have provided for me, gives me more content. To whom Sir Richard Whittington making a low obeisance, made answer, It much rejoiceth me, O great Sovereign, that any thing that remaineth in my power, can give your Highness so least cause to be pleased: but since you praise this Fire already made, I purpose ere your sacred Majesty depart the house, to entertain you with one, (I hope) that shall content you much better: the King not thinking it could be possible, desired him to make a proof thereof: when he (having before provided himself for that purpose) brought a great bundle of Bonds, Indentures, and Covenants under his arm, said thus to the King: Royal Sovereign; to whom I owe both my fortunes and my life, I have here a faggot of purpose left for this Fire, which I hope will smell much more sweetly than the first in your Rostrils; for, saith he, here is, first your Highness security for ten thousand Marks, lent you for the maintenance of your Royal Wars in France, by the Right Worshipful Company of the Mercers, which I here Cancel, and cast into the Fire: fifteen hundred lent by the City to your Majesty, I send after the former: two thousand Marks borrowed of the Grocers Company, three thousand of the Merchant-Taylors, one thousand of the Drapers, one thousand of the Skinners, one thousand of the Ironmongers, one thousand of the Merchant-Staplers; of the Goldsmiths three thousand, of the Haberdashers as much; of the Linners, Briers, and Brown Bakers, three thousand Marks: All these you see are Cancel'd, and burnt, saith he, with divers other Bonds for Money lent by my father in Law, Alderman Fitzwarren

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 Fitzwarren, for the payment of your Souldiers in France, whiche coming
 unto me by Executioner, I have taken in and discharged.



Others there likewise due to me of no small summs, by others of
 your Nobility here present, all which, with the former, I have sacrificed
 to the love and honour of my dread Sovereign, amounting to the summe of
 threescore thousand pounds Sterling, and can your Majesty (saith he) de-
 sire to sit by a fire of more sweet scent and labor? At this the King was
 much extol'd, and the rather, because it came unexpectedly, and from
 so free a Spirit, and embracing him in his Arms, said unto him, that he
 sought never King had such a Subject, and at his departure, did him all
 the grace and honour that could descend from a King to a Subject, promi-
 sing him moreover, that he should ever stand in the first rank of those whom
 he laboured. And so the Lord Mayor bearing the Sword before their two
 most Sacred Majesties as far as Temple-Bar, the King for his former
 service, and his most kind and loving entertainment at that time, and
 the Noble men for that extraordinary courtesie offered them, all unitedly
 and unanimously commended his goodness, applauded his bounty, and
 wished that he might live to perpetual memory, and so bid both him and
 the other for that time adieu.

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To omit all other circumstances; having acquainted you with the poor and mean estate of this Sir Richard Whittington, when he came first into the City of London, and by what means he was relieved in his miserable poverty; as also the fortunate success of his small adventure, whereby he was raised unto so great honour, that he became the Cities Governour, and how discreetly and wisely he behaved himself in his Authority and Office, gaining thereby the love and probation of all men: And further, having shewed you what goodly Buildings have been raised by his great cost and charge; as one Church, two Colledges, and certain Alms-houses, with yearly means left for the maintenance of all such as shall be admitted into them; and many other Charitable Acts performed by him, which are before related, to the great good and benefit of the City, and what things of note happened in his time, I will now conclude with Master Stow, That London had a Park near adjoining to it, stozed with such Deer, (as doubtless it hath, though not easily known) for some build Alms-houses, Free-Schools, Caules, and Bldges, in needful and necessary places; others repair ruinated and decayed Churches, relieving Hospitals in a bountiful manner, and are weekly Benefactors to Prisons, and those performed by such Agents faithfully, that the true benefactors are not publicly noted, howsoever they may be easily supposed: But the Glory they seek to inhale here, will (no doubt) for ever shine on them elsewhere. And that great God who hath created us, and plentifully distributed in his great bounty all things to men, and yet not given all things to any one man, lest it might take away that necessary commerce and mutual society which ought to be amongst us, stir up the minds of moze of them, to imitate at least, though not to exceed them in their bounty and liberality.

FINIS.



